

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

### **Listing Of Claims:**

- 1        1. (currently amended) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a  
2 gripping section of an article, said gripping element comprising:  
3            a cylindrical member having an outer surface and an inner surface;  
4            a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface,  
5            wherein said elevated sections are configured to include intercalated, crossed or  
6 hexagon shapes; and  
7            a plurality of flexible protrusions extending from said inner surface capable of  
8 resiliently conforming to the gripping section of the article.  
9            ~~a band member situated between said cylindrical member and a writing nib, said band~~  
10 ~~member having a diameter greater than the diameter of said cylindrical member.~~
- 1        2. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are raised  
2 at least about 0.1 mm above said outer surface.
- 1        3. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are raised  
2 at most about 3.0 mm above said outer surface.
- 1        4. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is formed from  
2 an anti slip material.
- 1        5. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is formed from  
2 a resilient material.
- 1        6. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element is fabricated of  
2 a thermoplastic elastomer.
- 1        7. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element has a Shore A  
2 hardness of at least about 50 durometer.

1 8. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said grip element has a Shore A  
2 hardness of at most about 70 durometer.

1 9. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections are  
2 sufficiently spaced apart such that small particles cannot become lodged between said  
3 elevated sections and any particle large enough to become lodged between said elevated  
4 sections can be readily dislodged.

1 10. (original) The gripping element of claim 1, wherein said elevated sections have a  
2 smooth outer surface.

1 11. (currently amended) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a  
2 gripping section of an article, said gripping element comprising:

3 a cylindrical member having an outer surface and an inner surface;

4 a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface,

5 wherein said elevated sections are configured to include intercalated, crossed  
6 or hexagon shapes;

7 a conical member having a converging outer surface towards a writing nib of  
8 said article; and

9 a plurality of flexible protrusions extending from said inner surface capable of  
10 resiliently conforming to the gripping section of the article.

11 ~~a band member situated between said conical member and said cylindrical~~  
12 ~~member.~~

1 12. (previously presented) The elastomeric gripping element recited in Claim 11, wherein  
2 said cylindrical member and said conical member are made of the same material.

1 13. (canceled)  
2

3 14. (new) An elastomeric gripping element, configured to fit over a gripping section of an  
4 article, said gripping element comprising:

5 a cylindrical member having an outer surface and an inner surface;

6 a plurality of elevated sections extending from said outer surface,  
7 wherein said elevated sections are configured to include intercalated, crossed or  
8 hexagon shapes; and  
9 a plurality of ribs extending from said inner surface.